



Työ- ja elinkeinoministeriö
Arbets- och näringsministeriet

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition

Letter
15 May 2019

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Re: Public consultation by the European Commission on the prolongation of certain State aid rules on 15 April 2019

DRAFT COMMISSION REGULATION AND COMMUNICATION ON THE PROLONGATION OF THE VALIDITY OF CERTAIN EU RULES ON STATE AID UNTIL THE END OF 2022 – FINLAND'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMISSION'S PUBLIC CONSULTATION

On 15 April 2019 the Commission launched a public consultation on the prolongation of the validity of State aid rules.

In Finland, the Employment and Well-Functioning Markets Department of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment is the coordinating authority in matters related to EU State aid rules. In response to the public consultation organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Competition, the Ministry is providing the attached comments.

Antti Neimala
Director General

Niina Puolusmäki
Chief Specialist

ANNEXES

Finland's contribution

Draft Commission regulation and communication on the prolongation of the validity of certain EU rules on State aid until the end of 2022 – Finland's contribution

Finland supports the prolongation of the following State aid rules until 31 December 2022:

- Commission Regulation regarding the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid (De minimis regulation).
- Commission Regulation declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (Block Exemption Regulation)
- Guidelines on regional State aid for 2014–2020 (the document refers to national regional aid maps)
- Guidelines on State aid to promote risk finance investments
- Guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and energy
- Guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring, and
- Communication from the Commission regarding important projects of common European interest.

A prolongation of the validity of the rules is needed to allow a proper assessment and examination of the rules at a later stage, and to ensure predictability and stability for Member States.

Finland considers a careful evaluation procedure important and deems it appropriate to prolong the validity of the proposed rules to ensure careful preparation. A prolongation of the validity would also increase legal certainty and predictability for both companies and for entities granting aid.